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"The agitation of thought is the beginning of Truth."

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S. R. KIRBY, M. D., EDITOR.

ON THE USE OF HIGH ATTENUATIONS IN HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE.

By DR. C. VON BÖNNINGHAUSEN, OF MUNSTER, WESTPHALIA.

The great medicinal virtue and curative efficacy of the high and highest attenuations, or, more correctly speaking, dynamizations of conscientiously-prepared homœopathic remedies have been so thoroughly and convincingly tried and proved by some of the most experienced and honorable practitioners, that one really cannot help feeling some surprise at the strange obstinacy with which so many professed homœopaths not only refuse to employ high attenuations in their practice, but even pronounce them *a priori* as totally inefficient, and endeavor to ridicule the notion that would ascribe to them the slightest medicinal action or virtue. And yet no one who has impartially put the question to the only reliable test, that of experience, will deny that the discovery of the high dynamizations is one of the most marvelous progresses of the homœopathic science, and that no other improvement in homœopathic technique can compete with it. The immortal Hahnemann, whose talent really looks sometimes like an inspiration from above, had, in the last years of his life, arrived at a profound conviction of the efficacy of high attenuations, and had accordingly for some time followed, in the preparation of his remedies and in his doses, a method different from that which he had recommended to the public in his former works; the modifications then introduced he intended to publish to the world in the last edition of his "Organon." This edition has, unfortunately, never appeared, although I know, from several letters of Hahnemann, to a certainty, that he had completed the work, and that the MS. was ready for the printer, when death struck him. The world knows well by whose means the publication of that most important work has been prevented.

But from the same letters of the great master, with which he honored and rejoiced me during a period of more than fourteen years, and of which the last was dictated scarce two months before his death, and signed with already trembling hand, I know pretty well what he thought of high dynamizations,

and that he unreservedly approved of the notions and proceedings in this matter of myself and of my friends (Stapf and Gross). It was, therefore, by no means a mere inconsiderate desire of innovation that prompted me first to call the attention of homœopathic practitioners to this important subject, in an article which appeared in the "New Archives for Homœopathic Medicine" (vol. i., No. ii., p. 36), and to which my friend Stapf appended some remarks relative to several cases of Gross and his own, fully confirmatory of my views and experience.

I should think that homœopaths, at all events those who profess to have long used with the greatest success our remedial agents, up to the 30th attenuation, have no right to reject *a priori* the higher attenuations. Assuredly no one will venture to affirm that a material medicinal substance continues still to be present in the 30th attenuation; the homœopathic practitioner knows that no perceptible difference can be discerned between the action of the 18th and the 24th, or between that of the 24th and the 30th attenuation, although materially the differences are great enough in all conscience. This fact alone should suffice to prove convincingly, or at all events raise a strong presumption, that the medicinal virtue of a remedial agent, though (if we may be permitted to use the expression) *in-dwelling* in the matter, is by no means *identical with or inherent in* that matter, and that this mysterious principle which eludes the grasp of the chemist, must not be measured by the rule applied to ponderable substances, but in its evolution and propagation rather akin to the imponderable principles (light, heat, electricity, magnetism). I have this very year commenced a series of comparative experiments on the influence on vegetation which matters, indifferent in themselves, may acquire by being strongly rubbed or shaken together with substances exercising a certain action upon vegetation; these experiments, which I intend to continue, even now already give the most positive and conclusive results, showing that vegetable life is highly susceptible of being acted upon by high attenuations. I intend shortly to publish my experiments on this subject, and the results to which they have led. I have a sanguine hope that these results may

finally lead to the deduction of a new hitherto unknown law for animated nature, as startling as the "*similia similibus*." All experiments of this kind, intelligently and accurately conducted, are questions asked of Nature, and to which "the honest inquirer" is sure to receive an answer; they are of infinitely higher value than all the "opinions" and theoretical views in the world; which, if the truth must be confessed, are worth mostly the one as much as the other—i. e. nothing.

Mindful of the motto of our great master, "*Audete sapere*," every homœopathist, sincerely desirous of furthering the progress of our sublime science, ought therefore at least to condescend to subject to the test of experiment the statements and suggestions of his professional brethren, instead of rejecting them *a priori*, and for no other reason than that they do not happen to accord with what he may be pleased to call "common sense," and of combatting them with weapons such as the ultra-allopathists of former days used to wield against homœopathy, and which surely are not fair, and often even scarcely honorable or decent. We have never dreamt of exacting or demanding a blind faith in the truth and correctness of our statements and allegations; all we ask of our professional brethren is, that they will consent to put these statements and allegations to the only reliable test, that of experience; and we appeal to them, and request them, in the words of the immortal Hahnemann, to repeat our experiments, but to repeat them accurately, and exactly in the manner in which they are laid before you; and you will speedily discern with your own eyes, whether our statements rest upon the basis of truth or upon that of error.

It must, however, also be admitted, that a correct and accurate repetition of homœopathic experiments is by no means without its difficulties, and yet these difficulties must be thoroughly overcome ere the results obtained can be considered trustworthy and conclusive. The homœopathic experimenter should possess a thorough knowledge of the homœopathic science, more particularly of the *Materia Medica*, and should strictly and scrupulously adhere to the instructions of the great founder of the homœopathic doctrine. The most important point is, of course, always the selection of the proper remedy; but it is almost of equal importance to guard carefully against inconsiderate repetition of the doses of the remedy administered, or hasty substitution of other agents instead, or rapid alternation between different medicinal substances. The higher dynamizations of homœopathic remedies, require more particular caution in this respect, since experience has proved that they are slower and more continuous and lasting in their action than the lower attenuations, and that they can the least bear repetitions without appropriate intervening medicines. Accordingly, if a homœopathic practitioner is not in the position to select with exactitude the proper remedy, or does not deem himself possessed of

moral strength sufficient to let him calmly await the action of the remedy administered, though some time should elapse before that action becomes manifest, let him not expect safe and reliable results from his experiments, nor ascribe his failure to the method or agent recommended by others, but frankly and honestly attribute it to the obstacles, subjective or objective, that have opposed the success of his experiment. But every homœopathic practitioner of any experience and practice will find plenty of cases where he may satisfy every requirement to a successful trial, and to such cases he may, without the slightest prejudice to his patients or to his reputation, at first limit his experiments.

As this is the first time that I have had the honor to address myself directly to my esteemed British colleagues, I must crave permission to offer a few explanatory remarks before I proceed to the narration of my cases.

I have made it an inviolable rule, in accordance with the example and precepts of Hahnemann, to keep a register of every case. Now, as my practice happens to be very extensive, it will be readily perceived that, as I can scarcely have time to note down minutely every fact, symptom, or indication, I am therefore obliged to confine myself to those symptoms and characteristic indications which bear more immediately upon the choice of the remedy, and which can only be acquired after a lengthened and constant study of the homœopathic *Materia Medica Pura*. My pathological descriptions and delineations are therefore always rather brief, yet, I trust, sufficiently clear and pointed, and affording all the indications requisite to explain the reason why the remedy administered was selected. Now, as I do not like to make any addition from memory, which is mostly treacherous, I hope no one will blame me for confining myself to a literal reproduction of the respective cases as they are extracted from my case-books. I add volume and page, simply for the reason that any one who may choose to call my statements in question, and who may feel inclined to honour me with a personal visit, may convince himself from the original case-book of the perfect correctness of my statement. My case-books already number eighty volumes quarto, and I have therefore, for the sake of reference, made an accurate alphabetical index to them, which enables me to put my hand readily upon any case which I may happen to search for. With respect to the long and minutely detailed description of cases, which occupy several pages, I cannot help remarking that they look but too frequently like some historical romance, based on fact in the main, but vastly embellished in the accessories. But in homœopathic practice, the selection of the proper remedy from amongst a group of medicines, seemingly equally indicated against the main features of these accessories, depends, in a great measure, upon the occasions and their proper estimation; it will, therefore, readily be granted that poetic additions to them,

or reminiscences that smack but too often of the generalizing pathologies of the old school, can only tend to confuse and confound.

Having premised this much, by way of introduction, I will now proceed to give a few cases from my books, in compliance with the request of my excellent colleague and friend, Mr. Wilson, of London—a request to which I the more readily respond, as I am firmly convinced that it is from Great Britain principally that our noble science will spread and diffuse its blessings over a considerable portion of the civilized world. I am perfectly aware that the young doctrine has in Great Britain also had to pass, and will still have to pass, through many struggles and persecutions, particularly on the part of some of the Universities, which sounds rather old, considering the boasted freedom of teaching. But I entertain no doubt of its ultimate triumph there, relying as I do on the all-conquering power of truth, and on the generous ardour of Englishmen to aid and advance everything good and useful. Germany has indeed been from old the cradle of most inventions, but they have all been somehow compelled to seek beyond its boundaries—and more particularly in England—a soil in which to develop themselves, to ripen, and to spread. Therefore, my dear British colleagues, I tender you, from the distance that separates us, the hand of a brother, and address once more to you the motto of our departed teacher and master—"Audete asperes!"

CASES.

1. (Vol. 78, page 116). W. Soh. W—, farmer, aged thirty-seven years, suffered since three or four months from stitches in the left side, which grow worse when the patient moves much about, works hard, or gets excited; rest produces a beneficial influence; palpitation of the heart, particularly on awaking. In the morning, cough, with putrid, yellowish expectoration (formerly streaked black); oppressed respiration in a warm room. (About eighteen months ago the patient got wet through in the fields, which was the original cause of his illness; subsequently, last summer, he had a fever, after which he felt tolerably well for a few months.) Feels worse in the evening; feeling of uneasiness in the limbs in the evening. Cold makes him feel worse. Itching on the shoulder-blades and on the chest.

The patient can give no account of the allopathic preparations which he had taken previous to his applying to me.

March 10, 1851.—1, *Rhus Toxicodendron*; 2, *Bryonia*; 3, *Rhus Toxicodendron*, 200 (i. e. of each remedy two globules, moistened with the 200th dynamization of the centesimal scale). One dose to be taken every fifth evening.

March 30th. Amelioration in all symptoms, but without complete removal of any. 1. *Calc. carb.* 2000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 ϕ (*Sacch. Lact.*—

the symbol ϕ was the one which Hahnemann used to employ for this substance). One dose to be taken every fifth evening.

April 18th. Considerably better. 1 to 4 ϕ . One dose every fifth evening.

May 8th. No further improvement. Anxiety and oppression when lying down after meals. Sleeplessness in the early part of the night. 1. *Lycopodium* 2000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 ϕ . One dose every fifth evening.

May 30th. A few boils on the arms; in other respects quite well. 1 to 4 ϕ . One dose every fifth evening.

Perfectly cured.

2 (vol. 78, page 120). L. G—, housekeeper, thirty-nine years of age, spinster, resident in Munster. Has been suffering for the last fifteen months from *gastric fever* (so called by the allopathic school), accompanied by copious perspirations (termed, also, on that account, *sweating fever*). In the morning, at rising, vomiting of phlegm. All fat food disagrees with her. Obstinate constipation; is compelled to have recourse to pills to obtain alvine evacuations. Pains in the small of the back, both when walking about and when sitting or lying. Heaviness in the forehead. Perspirations in bed in the middle of the night, and early in the morning; perspiration when sitting down, after the least exercise, most copious in the back, under the armpits, and about the sexual parts. No thirst. Sensation of lassitude early in the morning. Headache after meals. Melancholy disposition. She despairs of her recovery.

Since the commencement of her illness up to the time of her applying to me, the patient has been under allopathic treatment, and has been literally drenched with all sorts of medicine, which, however, have only had the effect to make her go on from bad to worse. The prescriptions showed a most liberal use more particularly of the following preparations: *Potio Riveri*, *Spir. Mindereri*, *Rheum*, *Spir. Salisiduleis*, *Ammonium Muriat.*, *Acidum Muriatricum*, *Senna*, *Colchicum Autumnale*, *Kali aceticum*, and *Sulphur*, *Valeriana*, etc.

March 12, 1851. 1. *Sepia* 2000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 ϕ . The powder to be dissolved in three teaspoonfuls of water; one teaspoonful to be taken every night.

March 29th. Considerably better in every respect. 1, *Sepia*, 4000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 ϕ . To be taken as before.

April 16th. Still some pain in the small of the back, and headache after any exertion; for the last four days, perspiration during sleep. 1, *Sulphur* 4000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 ϕ . To be taken as before.

May 5th. The fever which she had last year, at the beginning of her illness, returned yesterday, with thirst at night, and headache; she is, however, better to day. 1, *Sepia* 6000; 2 to 4 ϕ . To be taken as before.

Perfect recovery. She feels better than ever before in her life.

3 (vol. 78, page 126) B. B—, a boy, thirteen years of age, suffered since three months from an enormous swelling of the parotid gland, not accompanied, however, by severe pain. He has been hitherto under allopathic treatment, but has not derived the slightest benefit from it; has forgotten to bring the prescriptions with him.

March 15th, 1851. 1, *Sulphur* 2000; 2, *Psor.* 200; 3, *Sulphur* 2000; 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

April 5th. No change. Brought with him some of the allopathic prescriptions, showing that he had taken, among others, *Tart. stib.*, *Mercurius*, *Sulphur*, and *Camphor.* 1, *Calc.* 2000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

April 28th. The swelling of the gland much reduced. 1 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

May 17th. There remains hardly any swelling. 1, *Calc.* 3000; 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

Perfectly cured.

4 (vol. 78, page 127). B. B—, a girl, sixteen years of age, resident in Munster; affected since three years with a running from the left ear, of a fetid sanguino-purulent matter; the running is unattended with pain. Cutting pain in the forehead. Chronic inflammation of the eyes, though less severe than formerly. Diarrhœa, with protrusion of the rectum. Monthly period regular, but of too long duration; preceded by violent abdominal pains. (The mother had a protracted attack of nervous fever during her pregnancy with this child.)

The patient had been treated for some time by a homœopathic practitioner of this place, who is now deceased, but she had experienced only trifling benefit from the treatment, some slight amelioration having been effected in the diarrhœa and ophthalmia.

March 18th, 1851. 1, *Sulphur* 2000; 2 §; 3, *Sulphur* 2000; 4 §. To be taken, one powder every fifth evening.

April 13th. Considerable amelioration in all the symptoms. The running from the ear diminished, though not yet altogether removed. 1, *Calc.* 2000; 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth day.

Perfectly cured.

5th (vol. 80, page 131). T. B—, spinster, thirty-five years of age; affected since several years with pains in the spleen resembling stitches, and spreading from the spleen to the left side of the chest; the pains are more severe in the evening, and after any exertion. Swelling of the feet, in the evening. Trembling of the limbs. Perspires readily and copiously, particularly at night, and when sitting down after any exertion. Fat food disagrees with her. Costiveness.

The patient had been in the hands of several allopathic physicians, who had given a great quantity of medicine, but without achieving any

better result than making the patient go on from bad to worse. *Ferrum* and *Valerian* seemed to have been the favourite nostrums.

March 15th, 1851. 1, *Sepia* 200; 2, *Ignatia amara*, 200; 3, *Sepia* 200; 4, §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

April 21st. Considerable improvement, though not yet perfectly restored to health. Diarrhœa after partaking of oily substances. 1, *Sep.* 2000 (Jen.); 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

Perfectly cured.

6 (vol. 80, page 139). H. L—, of H—, painter and glazier, twenty years of age; suffered since last summer from stitches in the right side of the chest, accompanied by traction in the limbs, and beating in the forehead, particularly over the left eye; the symptoms are worse during wet stormy weather, snow, hoarfrost, and in the evening when retiring to rest, and also when the patient takes a walk, or exerts himself in any other way. Cannot sleep before midnight, on account of a distressing cough, with spasms and difficult expectoration of saline mucus; after this expectoration, the patient feels his chest somewhat relieved. He can lie only on the left side (Phthisis tuberculosa)! Bread, soups, pancakes, pork and all fat food disagree with him. He feels very cold, and is always worse in the cold. Little thirst. His strength is completely gone; he can no longer work.

The patient had been for nine months under allopathic treatment, and had been made to cultivate an extensive acquaintance with the preparations of the Pharmacopœia. *Ammon. mur.* and *Tart. stib.* seemed to have been the principal favorites. His case had, however, grown worse and worse, until at length his physician left him to the curative virtues of copious draughts of tea of *Lichen Island.*, but with the same bad success.

March 16th, 1851. 1, *Kali carbon.* 200; 2, *Sulphur* 200; 3, *Kali carbon.* 200; 4, §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

April 7th. Considerable improvement in all the symptoms, although not one of them has yet completely disappeared. The expectoration has lost its saline taste, and is now perfectly tasteless. In the evening, oppression of the chest, when sitting. 1, *Phosphorus* 2000; 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every fifth day.

April 30th. The *Phosphorus* has not made a favourable impression upon the system; the oppression of the chest in the evening is worse than before. 1, *Nux Vomica* 200; 2, *Kali carbon.* 2000; 4, §. One powder to be taken every fifth evening.

After these remedies the patient recovered his health completely. This is one of the serious cases witnessed by Dr. Dunham, of New York, during his stay here.

7 (vol. 78, page 137). H. H—, a boy, eight years of age, was affected at the age of six months with a fever (pectoral fever), and has

been suffering ever since. Cough, with pain in the chest; the cough is dry in the evening, but in the morning it is accompanied by expectoration of a sweetish matter, tasting like milk, or like nuts. Strong appetite; eat as much as he may, the patient hardly ever feels satisfied. Perspiration as soon as he falls asleep. Brown urine in the morning. Great desire to drink milk. Constant rheum.

The patient had been hitherto under allopathic treatment, but without deriving any benefit from the same. The prescriptions could not be got.

March 18th, 1851. 1, *Sulphur* 200; 2, §; 3, *Calc. carb.* 200; 4, §. One powder to be taken every eighth day.

April 12th. Considerable improvement in all the symptoms, 4 §. One powder to be taken every eighth day.

No further remedy or treatment was required to restore the boy to perfect health, which he has continued to enjoy up to the present moment.

8 (vol. 78, page 142). B. H—, a student, twenty-four years of age, resident at Munster; has been labouring for about a year under a peculiar kind of difficulty of breathing; he feels as if there were a valve in the throat, intercepting the breath; this grows worse in the evening in bed, when the patient often feels as if he were on the point of suffocation. Cough unattended with pain; scanty expectoration, brought up with difficulty. Sensation of lassitude in the chest. When drawing in the breath, the patient has a sensation as if his chest were too narrow. In the early part of the morning he feels better.

The patient has been under allopathic treatment. The last remedy recommended by his physician was *Lichen Island.*, but he has not derived the slightest benefit from this or from any of the other medicines administered to him.

March 19th, 1851. 1, *Spongia* 200; 2, *Hep. sulph. calc.* 200; 3, *Spongia* 200; 4, §. One powder to be taken every eighth day.

April 16th. The sensation of the presence of a valve in the throat is completely gone. The difficulty of breathing is considerably less, and confined entirely to the morning. Cough when drawing a deep breath. Headache in the morning. Sensation of cold in the stomach. 1, *Phosphorus* 2000; 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every eighth day.

May 14th. Improvement in all the symptoms. 1, *Kali carb.* 2000; 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every eighth day.

June 18th. The *Kali carb.* seemed to have been badly chosen; perhaps its administration was premature. The patient feels very cold and chilly, particularly in the morning; the sensation of a valve in the throat has come back, and is more strongly felt now in the act of exhaling. Palpitation of the heart has come on. 1, *Spongia* 2000; 2 to 4 §. One powder to be taken every eighth day.

Perfect recovery took place after these remedies.

I beg to call the particular attention of my homœopathic colleagues to the consequence of the ill-advised administration of the *Kali* in this case, as in Case 6 of that of the *Phosphorus*. The injurious consequences of these two doses clearly prove the powerful action of high dynamizations upon the system.—*Hom. Times.*

(To be continued.)

(Reported for the American Jour. of Homœopathy.)

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW-YORK.

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING.

Syracuse, June 1st, 1852.

This being the day appointed for the semi-annual meeting, the society met at the rooms of the Franklin Institute, and the meeting was called to order by the President, Lyman Clary, M.D., at half past 10 o'clock A. M.

The large attendance of members, representing nearly every section of the state, presented a gratifying evidence of the interest taken by the profession in the objects of the association.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read by the Secretary, and approved.

A considerable time was then occupied in the proposition and election of new members. A motion was made, on account of the number of candidates proposed, to dispense with the rule which requires a ballot in each case, but the society decided against the adoption of such a precedent. About forty members were added to the roll of the society; a considerable proportion of whom were present and signed the constitution.

The Secretary reported, verbally, that in consequence of the paucity of information he had received, he was unable to present a satisfactory report in compliance with the Resolution passed at the annual meeting in relation to the statistics of Homœopathy in this State, and asked that he might be allowed till the next meeting to complete the report. The report was accepted and leave granted.

The committee appointed at the last meeting to prepare and circulate an address to the Homœopathic Physicians generally throughout the State reported that they had complied with the terms of the resolution, and had sent a copy of the appeal to all the Homœopathic Physicians whose address they could obtain. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

Dr. Humphreys, from the Bureau for the

enlargement and improvement of the *Materia Medica*, presented a preliminary but very interesting report, on the necessity and importance of a more general experimentation by Physicians upon themselves, of the yet imperfectly known medicinal agents.

The following substances were specially recommended by the committee to the members of this society, for trial during the present year, viz :

Further provings and observations with the *Apis Melifica*.

Proving of the *Hamamelis Virginiana*.

Proving of the *Plantago*, and of the *Ainifuga*.

Proving of Urea and its combinations.

Specimens of these articles may be obtained by application to either of the members of the committee.

The Report concluded with the following Resolution :—

Resolved, That each member of the Society be requested to make a proving of at least one drug upon himself during the present year, and to report such proving to the Bureau on or before the first day of January next.

A spirited discussion arose upon some points involved in the report and resolution, in which several members participated.

The Resolution was finally passed with great unanimity.

Dr. Humphreys offered the following Resolution :—

Resolved, That all members of this Society be requested to report to the annual meeting, in writing, at least one case, cured in his practice, by a single remedy. Adopted.

Dr. Metcalf moved that when the Secretary gives notice of the annual meeting, he be requested to have the two resolutions above mentioned, printed with the said notices.

Dr. Metcalf read a communication on a method of preserving vegetable juices for medicinal purposes, which was directed to be published.

Dr. Richardson exhibited a specimen of the false membrane of croup, thrown off in a case successfully treated with *Lachesis*.

Dr. Munger communicated details of cases of dropsy after scarlatina, and erysipelas, successfully treated with *Apis Melifica*.

Dr. Weeks made a verbal communication, further illustrating the favourable effect of *Apis Mel.*, in Erysipelas faciei.

Dr. Barber related a case of extensive dropsical effusion, in which the *Apis* was prescribed without apparent benefit, but which was cured by *Asparagus 1*, and *Arsenicum 30*.

Dr. Munger's paper was directed to be printed.

Dr. Humphreys offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to consider the expediency of establishing a Homœopathic Medical College in this State, and to report at the annual meeting.

The Resolution was debated at considerable length by several members, and in a manner which exhibited their estimate of the great importance of the question, and the necessity of the adoption by the Society of a true policy in regard to the subject of medical education.

The resolution was finally carried, and Drs. Ball, Beakley, Humphreys, Childs and Chase were appointed the committee.

On motion of Dr. Paine, a committee of three, consisting of Drs. Richardson, H. D. Paine and Munger, was appointed to inquire into the expediency of effecting an incorporation of the Society under the laws of the State.

Dr. Guy offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to send a copy of the constitution to each member of the Society who has not already signed it, with a request that he will return it to the Secretary with his signature affixed. Carried.

On motion of Dr. Metcalf, a committee was appointed to report at the next meeting on the proper mode of proving drugs.

The Society then adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock p. m., in the Court Room of the City Hall, for the purpose of hearing an address.

8 o'clock p. m.

At the hour appointed the Society, together with a large and intelligent audience of ladies and gentlemen, assembled at the City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by the President, who expressed his pleasure in introducing to the audience J. W. Metcalf, M.D., of New York, who then proceeded to deliver his address.

On motion of Dr. Humphreys the following resolution was passed unanimously :—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to Dr. Metcalf for his able, interesting and convincing address, and that a copy be requested for publication.

Also, **Resolved**, That two thousand copies

of the address be printed for the Society, and that the author be also requested to publish it in the next number of the North American Homœopathic Journal.

After which the Society adjourned.

(For the American Journal of Homœopathy.)

PROFESSIONAL IGNORANCE—ON WHICH SIDE IS IT?

While some of the gentlemen of the new and the old school are agitating the question of professional ignorance, it may not be amiss to furnish the combatants with the following announcement, which was made some three or four years ago in this city. It may shed a ray of light on the controversy.

"I find that small doses of Ipec. will stop the vomiting, and that small doses of Rhubarb will stop the diarrhœa; a *strange anomaly* surely."

I take these words from an article published in one of the city papers by Dr. Anderson, Allopath, on the occasion of an expected attack of Asiatic cholera, three or four years ago.

Everybody knows that it is a constant rule with Homœopathy to administer medicine in "small doses;" and most intelligent persons know, or may easily know, that the curing of certain forms of vomiting by Ipec., and of certain forms of diarrhœa by rhubarb, is an every-day work of Homœopathy, in all parts of the world, even up by the learned doctor's nose.

Guided by law—the law of nature—Homœopathy discovered the curative powers of these two drugs, and that it resided in "*small doses*;" kept groping in the byways of "scheming and conjecture," Allopathy has remained ignorant of those curative powers, and of the quantity of those drugs in which that power resides, and, therefore, never could arrive at a more enlightened practice than that which characterises those old doctors of the other set who abound in all our country villages, and who, in a very respectable degree, share with the learned gentlemen of Allopathy the confidence of the people! And what is that practice? It is to administer these drugs as the cod liver oil is administered in large doses; although, in *every instance*, the hostility of the poison to the organism is unequivocally manifested, in the case of Ipec., by vomiting, with pallors, cold sweat and a sense of suffocation; and in that of rhubarb, by sour-smelling diarrhœa, tenesmus and colic.

But Dr. Anderson has *found* out the proper use and the proper doses of these two drugs; only he calls the thing an "*anomaly*," nay, a "*strange anomaly*." Now, unless the gentleman is prepared to admit that his beloved Allopathy has always taught "*strange anomalies*," instead of correct rules of practice, he must grant that it never taught or even knew what *he* "*found*," and, consequently, that it, that he and his whole school were ignorant, up to the hour of his discovery, of two essential things respecting two of the most familiar drugs of the *Materia Medica*, namely, the curative effect and the dose which he states. Or he must admit that he "*found*" what did not exist. I leave him his choice of the two horns of this dilemma.

It is amusing to observe the readiness with which the Allopathic Doctor called his discovery an *anomaly*. An anomaly argues the pre-existence of a *rule* from which the thing called an anomaly is a deviation. To give, then, a small dose of Ipec., or a small dose of Rheum, even though the one is sure to cure vomiting and the other diarrhœa, is an *anomaly*, nay, it is "*surely*" a "*strange anomaly*!" Oh no! dear Allopathy. There is no anomaly either way; the sickness of the large doses and the health of the small ones are both in accordance with natural laws.

But you have manufactured for yourself a rule which plainly shows you to be but partially acquainted with those laws—the rule of giving large doses. It is this stupid rule of yours that is the anomaly, and, viewing its destructive effects by the side of your high claims, "*a strange anomaly* surely."

JUSTICE.

14th June, 1852.

Nelson's Northern Lancet is making personal attacks on our old friend of the Medical Gazette, of this city.

We would be cautious how we meddle with other people's business, especially a quarrel among allopathists; but as we happen to know a good deal of the Editor of the Gazette we will just whisper in the ear of the *Lancet* that he has mistaken his man if he thinks to lower his standing in the profession or diminish his influence in it by personalities.

For the American Journal of Homœopathy.

First monthly report of cases treated at the Homœopathic Dispensary, corner of Broadway and Broome street, between the hours of 12 M. and 1 P.M. of each day (Sundays excepted). Commencing Monday, May 3d, 1852.

No. of Patients,.....	139
No. of Males,.....	37
No. of Females,.....	102
No. of prescriptions for the treatment of the above,.....	323

The following is a summary of the character of the diseases, and the result of treatment, viz:

Names of Disease.	No. of Cases.	Cured.	Improv. ing.	Not reported.	Died.
Abscess,.....	3	2	1		
" Lumbar, pointing in the left iliac region,.....	1	operat'd	1		
" Axilla,.....	1	1 do			
" Neck,.....	1	1 do			
Accidents,.....	4	4			
Dislocation of wrist,.....	1	reduced			
" elbow joint,.....	1				
Fracture of forearm,.....	1				
Asthma,.....	3	1	2		
Consumption,.....	3		3		
Constipation, constitutional,.....	2	2			
Cataract,.....	2		2		
Chronic Cough,.....	3	1	2		
Dyspepsia,.....	5	1	3	1	
Dysentery,.....	2	1	1		
Deafness,.....	1			1	
Dropy,.....	1		1		
Debility,.....	4	2	1	1	
Eruptions, Psora, Eczema, &c.,.....	10	2	5	3	
Felons,.....	2	2			
Fever, Intermittent,.....	3	2		1	
" Synochol,.....	1	1			
Headache, Chronic,.....	10	2	4	4	
" Sick,.....	1	1			
Heart disease,.....	1		1		
Injuries,.....	4	3	1		
" of Head,.....	1	1			
" Back,.....	1	1			
" Genitals,.....	1		1		
Inflammation of Lungs,.....	7	4	2	1	
" Tonsils,.....	1	1			
" Bladder,.....	1	1			
" Eyes,.....	7	3	3	1	
" Face (Erysipelatous),.....	1	1			
Leucorrhœa,.....	1	1			
Lumbago,.....	1	1			
Menstrual irregularities,.....	2	2			
Mercurial disease,.....	1	1			
Neuralgia,.....	3	3			
Opacity of Cornea,.....	2	1	1		
Otorrhœa (discharge from ears),.....	3	2	1		
Piles,.....	2	2			
Prolapsus Uteri,.....	2	1	1		
Pyrosis,.....	1	1			
Paralysis,.....	1	1			
Rheumatism, Chronic,.....	13	6	5	2	
Rickets,.....	1		1		
Scrofula of Glands,.....	11	4	5	2	
Scrofulite ulcers,.....	4		3	1	
Toothache, from Caries,.....	4	4			
Teething,.....	1	1			
Tumours,.....	2	1	1		
Ulcer ated mouth and throat,.....	1	1	1		
Ulcers, indolent,.....	1	1			
Urinary organs, disease of (7 years standing),.....	1	1			
Vertigo,.....	3	1	2		
Worms,.....	3	1			
" Ascaris Vermicularis (Thread-worm),.....	1	1			
" Lumbricoides (Round-worm),.....	1	1			
" Tinea lata (Tape-worm),.....	1		1		

The ages of the patients ranged from nine months to seventy years, and a large majority were old chronic cases which had successfully resisted any other mode of treatment. One of the cases cured under the general term eruption, was scald head, of near sixteen years' standing. And one of the other cases cured, suggests not only an interesting but an important inquiry, particularly as regards the effectiveness of the different attenuations of Pulsatilla. It was a case of Asthma, with Otorrhœa (discharge from the left ear), of two years' standing, secondary to Menstrual; Puls. was distinctly indicated, and the 3d was accordingly prescribed, and taken without producing any change of symptoms; it was repeated the second and third time with similar result. Considering the drug so specifically indicated, I prescribed the 30th; the first dose produced a marked improvement, the second cured.

New York, June 15th, 1852.

M. FRELIGH, M.D.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.

On the 7th inst., at 112 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, the Hon. A. H. Macdonald Moreton in the chair, a meeting of gentlemen, interested in the extension of Homœopathy, was held to consider what steps were best calculated to advance their object.

It was resolved, to effect the purpose they had at heart, to found a hospital for the treatment of children; and it was further resolved to take immediate measures for carrying this resolution into execution.

It was resolved that the hospital be conducted upon the principles laid down and practised by Samuel Hahnemann.

That case-books be kept at the hospital, in which shall be stated the fullest history and the existing symptoms of the patient on entering the hospital, the medicines given, the subsequent symptoms, and the subsequent medicines given, which books shall be, at all reasonable times, open to all subscribers.

That the medical officers of the hospital shall give clinical instruction or lectures, and afford every facility to medical practitioners and students, to become acquainted with the homœopathic system of practice.

That the medical officers shall publish periodically a collection of cases from their hospital practice, in illustration of results, be they favorable or otherwise.

That the hospital be managed by a committee of laymen, who recognise the Organon of Hahnemann as the only sound basis by which his system of medical practice can be tested.

That the payment of five shillings annually shall constitute a subscriber, but that donations be received to any amount.

That whenever the funds of the hospital shall admit of it, some provision shall be made for attending poor women in their confinements.

It is highly important that the principles upon which the medical practice is to be conducted should be strictly defined, to guard against a routine system of spurious practice, which is unfortunately too prevalent at present, and totally at variance with Hahnemann's precepts. The principles of Hahnemann were, to take down carefully all the symptoms of the patient, to compare them with the recorded symptoms of the medicines whose effects are known, and to select the medicine that shall appear to be most homœopathic to the most minute totality of the collected symptoms (objective and subjective) of the patient, or, in other words, to find a medicine that shall be, as nearly as possible, analogous, in its ascertained and recorded effects, to the symptoms of the complaint.

All the so-called specifics in the old system of medicine (which operate curatively) are, in fact, homœopathic to the diseases against which they are given successfully. Such as *Bark* against certain forms of intermittent fever, *Opium*, against delirium tremens, *Sul-*

phur in itch, *Camphor* for strangury from blisters, etc., etc.

What we have taken the liberty of calling the spurious routine system is the selecting a medicine that shall relieve only one or two of the most prominent symptoms of the complaint, and then going on to another; giving one medicine for one symptom, another for another, without due examination. This requires far less labor, far less ability than the system propounded by the founder of Homœopathy, and it is far less happy in its results to the patient.

With regard to the teaching the system of Homœopathy to pupils; let them at least learn by the more laborious and more successful mode of practice.

It is with the view to ensure this laborious and difficult yet simple practice its full complement of study, that the case-books are to be rigorously and exactly kept, and open to inspection. The periodical publication of cases will, it is hoped, show the public that in the Child's Hospital some effort at least will be made to practise and teach homœopathy as propounded by its founder.

The sum of five shillings constituting a subscriber, it is expected that vast numbers, of limited means, will be stimulated to become contributors and participators in this noble undertaking.

It is trusted that a sufficient amount will be raised by an extended list of subscribers, and that many who know nothing about Homœopathy will give the small amount of five shillings to an establishment where everything is so open and so public; that they may be fairly assured whether there may not be truth in a system that tells the fond mother that croup need no longer sound a death knell in her ear, but that it is a curable complaint; that scarlet fever is no longer a dangerous complaint; that bronchitis and inflammation of the lungs are deprived of more than half their terrors.

At least we trust that we may calculate that each mother, who believes that her child's life has been saved by Homœopathy, will give five shillings to help to save the lives of her poorer fellow-creatures.

A list of lady patronesses and other philanthropic supporters will shortly be published. Meantime subscriptions, etc., will be received by Mr. Baillière, bookseller, 219 Regent Street, and by the following homœopathic chemists:—Mr. Headland, 15 Princes Street, Hanover Square; Mr. Leath, Vere Street, Oxford Street; Mr. Lane, Sloane Street; Mr. Storer, Foster Lane; Mr. Walker, Conduit Street.—*Hom. Times.*

HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE.

Homœopathy has principles clearly defined, from which are derived rules of practice of an exactness hitherto unknown in the art of healing. But what avails it to the sick, if these

rules are not understood by the practitioner; or if understood, disregarded in practice? We would fain never find fault. Our inclination is to allow every one to go on undisturbed in the way he thinks right; which we would do, if there was reason to believe that practitioners of medicine did use industriously, perseveringly, and to the full extent, those mental endowments with which the CREATOR has favored them. If we could see every one at work with his own mind, observing, reading, studying, and writing; if we could see every practitioner of Homœopathy carefully and minutely examining cases of disease with a thoroughness and precision allowed by the *Materia Medica Pura*, and thus select the remedies, and under the inspiration of a love of truth, and of humanity, apply them, distinguishing at all times between mere theory and well defined facts, and bringing everything that relates to disease and its treatment under the logical rules of the closest and universally admitted soundest reasoning; if, we say, we could see such evidence of a love of truth among physicians; and such an honesty of purpose, and such a freedom from mental slavery, then there would be an end of fault-finding; an end of envy and of jealousy; an end of pride and of vanity; an end of disreputable selfishness and hypocrisy among practitioners of the healing art. But such a happy, humane, honorable and dignified state of things does not exist; we lament it deeply that it does not. Therefore we must aim for it, and labor for it. For this reason, and for this object, we declare the conviction of our mind that a strict adherence to the principles of homœopathy, and her rules of practice under all circumstances, is essential to a safe and certain practice. In cases of serious sickness, even a slight omission of the rules of practice, or a slight deviation from them, may defeat a cure. No one, in the nature of the thing, can be certain of his remedy unless he carefully consult the *Materia Medica Pura*; no one, unless he disciplines his mind to minute observation and to close reasoning, can perceive and rightly use the actual phenomena always developed in the treatment of every case of sickness homœopathically. To mistake the phenomena of a disease for those of a drug, is of the most serious nature to the sick and to the practitioner, and yet there is reason for the assertion that blunders of this sort are

committed daily, to the injury of homœopathy as well as irreparable mischief to the sick. We know that deficient knowledge on the part of the people is an embarrassment to the practitioner of homœopathy. But in our humble opinion this should be met in a calm, dignified and firm manner. In allopathic practice in many, we were about to write, in almost all cases, the patient, or the relatives and friends, actually control the treatment. Attempts of this sort all of us meet with, but in a proper way we should do our duty faithfully, and insist upon a strict adherence to the rules of our art, and where this cannot be done, a love of truth and our own reputation should be a bar to any action or responsibility on our part. The people, because of allopathic teachings, will, for a long time to come, undertake to direct the medical treatment of themselves, even in the presence of the physician. This cannot be obviated suddenly, it must be endured, it being one of those perplexing things we meet with in a faithful discharge of duty.

It is, to our mind true, that upon homœopaths devolves the great work of correcting popular errors in medicine; allopathists cannot do it. They are the sole cause of those errors; they exclaim against them, we know, but in very general terms; and when they come to particulars, it amounts mainly to this, that the people see fit to employ one physician instead of another, that is, one allopathist instead of another allopathist, and if we analyse the complaint, it amounts to but little else other than dollars and cents. This, by the way, is about the gist of the opposition to homœopathy. If it were a love of truth, we should not hear of vulgar personal denunciations, which are so common in medical associations and periodicals. He who is honest, he who loves truth, he who has a high sense of honor, he who is wise, never indulges in vulgar personal denunciation for opinion's sake.

The allopathic school can never correct what is termed "popular errors in medicine," for these very errors are but a part and parcel of itself developed in unlearned language and in practice without the showy forms of the allopathic physician. He who professes to hold fixed principles in medicine is bound to rely on those principles in practice, or publicly abandon them. Honesty demands this of him. He cannot be guiltless who professes faith in homœopathy before the public, and is

thereby employed on account of such faith, and for no other reason, is morally bound to abide by his principles under all circumstances. Homœopathy, as taught by Hahnemann, has been fully tested, and is no longer a doubtful system. If his professed disciples would do as he did, fairly and openly, and not be moved to the right or to the left for fame or money, in a few years allopathy would be looked upon as a thing that was.

FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AM. INST. OF HOMŒOPATHY.

In accordance with a former resolution of the Institute, making it the duty of each member to present a communication on some medical subject at every annual meeting, I hereby communicate the history of a recent case of the death of a lady in the city of New Haven from the use of chloroform, which was administered previous to an intended operation for the extraction of a portion of tooth.

Mrs. E. N., aged 24 years, of medium size, weight about 120 pounds, light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, had been married about six years, and at the time of her death was the mother of two children, the youngest of which was aged about six months, and still nursing. About fourteen months before her death, one of her molar teeth in the lower jaw having become carious caused her much pain, when Dr. P.—a reputable allopathic physician—advised her to have it extracted, and at her request he administered about one ounce of chloroform, which rendered her so far insensible that the tooth, or the greater part of it, was extracted without pain. The anæsthetic effect of the drug passed rapidly off without unpleasant results, when the Doctor discovered, contrary to his anticipation, that a portion of the tooth was still remaining, from which, or some other cause, an abscess formed and made its way outward through the cheek, but finally healed. The remaining portion of tooth gave her pain occasionally, and on the 7th ult. she applied to Dr. P. again to extract it, when he administered chloroform.

The circumstances and fatal results attending its administration I now give according to the testimony of Dr. P. and two females, present at its administration, at a coroner's inquest held the day after her decease :

At about half-past three o'clock, P. M., she was seated in a chair, when the physician, having saturated a piece of sponge (about one and a half inch in diameter) and placed it in a napkin, held it near, but not in contact with the nostrils. The sponge was again moistened two or three times in a period of from five to eight minutes, and again applied as before. While inhaling the fumes she remarked repeatedly that she did not feel its effects, and asked for more, and was conversing, laughing, and swinging one of her feet until she had inhaled nearly one drachm of chloroform, when Dr. P. discovered that her respiration was suddenly affected, and on examining her pulse, found it nearly imperceptible. He immediately placed her on her back, on the floor, and after a few short respirations, she expired without a struggle or groan.

I was called in to see the patient immediately after she ceased to breathe, and found her physician inflating her lungs, while his assistants were applying water, and friction, and stimulants, for her restoration, which were continued for some time without the least apparent effect. Her countenance appeared quite natural, but her fingers were a little livid.

On the following day a coroner's inquest was held to inquire into the cause and circumstances of her death. The two female attendants, present at the administration of the chloroform, confirmed the testimony of the physician, except they thought the time consumed in its administration was not exceeding five minutes before her "eyes became set," as they termed it. One of the females testified that she was a nervous woman, and subject to palpitation of the heart, but had not been confined by severe indisposition since adult years.

It was currently reported in the community, before the examination, that a disease of the heart was probably the cause of her death, and but for the post-mortem examination, her death would doubtless have been attributed by her physician and others to a disease of the heart, instead of the true cause. At the request of myself and other physicians present at the coroner's inquest, a post-mortem examination was had about twenty hours after her decease, in the presence of eight physicians, conducted very carefully by Professor K., and the following minutes were made by myself during the examination :

Her countenance appeared quite natural ;

chest well formed; adipose substance on the chest and abdomen, about three-fourths of an inch thick. Upon the examination of the thorax the pericardium and pleura appeared healthy, and less fluid in the former than usual. The lungs, the heart, and valves, and other appendages, appeared perfectly natural, the right side of the heart contained a small quantity of fluid blood, the left side entirely empty; the aortas and cavae were in a healthy state, and the latter contained fluid blood. In the abdomen, the stomach, liver, intestines, and the viscera were in a healthy state. The only variation from a perfectly healthy state of the contents of the thorax and abdomen was a slight engorgement of the small superficial vessels, which, when cut, were found filled with fluid blood of rather a darker color than when in perfect health.

On opening the cranium the vessels of the dura mater appeared slightly turgid, as well as the superficial vessels of the brain or pia mater. The sinuses contained some fluid similar in character to that of other vessels, but the brain was in a perfectly healthy state. The physicians present were all allopathic, except myself, and all testified that the chloroform was administered in a manner usually considered safe by those who use it, and all but Professor K. and myself justified its use in the case under consideration. All of the physicians present testified that the death was caused by chloroform. The jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the testimony, and entirely exculpated Dr. P. from all censure. I have been thus minute that all the circumstances may be preserved for reference with other cases in determining the propriety of its administration hereafter.

The fatal termination of this case affords another melancholy illustration of the impropriety of resorting to a remedy of such power, and so dangerous to life, in a minor operation. In my opinion, the patient fell a victim to its administration in a case not demanded by the nature of the intended operation, and the only consolation we have is, that the physician, although erring in judgment, acted in good faith, and that the melancholy and sudden death will, it is hoped, restrain him and others from its common use, and when not absolutely demanded by the length and severity of the operation, and attendant circumstances that may justify a resort to so potent yet so dangerous a remedy.

The physician, though not a professional dentist, had obtained considerable practice where scientific dentists and other physicians had refused to administer anæsthetic agents. He stated that he had administered chloroform in from one to two hundred cases, in the same manner, with the same identical sponge in all of them, and in a part of the cases, chloroform from the same bottle.

This case, too, affords additional evidence with those already on record, that the use of chloroform by a person at one time with impunity affords no assurance whatever of the safety of its repetition at a future period.

One thing is most certain, we have no means of determining *a priori* in any case whether its administration will terminate fatally or not. The strong as well as the weak, of different ages, and of both sexes, have fallen victims to its administration. There are no well defined or safe rules by which we can determine in advance, either the precise effect or the quantity the patient will bear. Various rules have been published for the safety of its administration, but experience has shown them to be fallible. The danger depends, no doubt, on contingencies entirely beyond our comprehension. In the language of another, "There is no ascertained law of progression, in the activity of the anæsthetic agent, and no one can know, in the commencement of its administration, upon what part of the brain it will ultimately fall." I apprehend it will be found from an examination of all the cases of death from chloroform or ether, administered as an anæsthetic (reported in the medical journals), that a large share of them have occurred in their administration for minor or comparatively speaking trivial operations, such as extracting teeth, extirpating toe nails, amputation of fingers, or opening fistulas or abscesses, where life would not be endangered by the operation, and where the patient fell a sacrifice under its use, uncalled for and not demanded by the exigency of the case.

I am not prepared, however, to say I would never use anæsthetic agents. I would only use them with a full consideration of the possible consequences the object sought to be attained by their administration. I would carefully decide whether, under all the attending circumstances, the anticipated benefit would be a full and ample equivalent for the danger to be apprehended, and which might result from their administration.

I would never use them in trivial or minor operations, but alone in those cases where from the severity and length of the operation or labor, or the nature of the disease, life would be placed in imminent danger by not using them. In those cases, I should prefer ether to chloroform, except in a diseased state of the lungs. It is more gradual and slow in its operation, and I apprehend more safe, with the exception I have named.

All which is respectfully submitted.

E. T. FOOTE, M.D.

New Haven, May 18th, 1852.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Of the Am. Inst. of Hom. to address the Homœopathic Physicians of the United States.

The American Institute of Homœopathy to its members sends greeting and congratulation:—because of the happy progress which our science continues to make, not only in its resources, to which each day adds something, but also because of the rapidly increasing estimation which it obtains from intelligent and enlightened people.

Its promulgation being nearly coeval with the commencement of the present century, it may be considered as the child of this age—an age in which man has pressed his investigations of nature to a far greater extent and with more stupendous results than his history justifies us in believing that he ever attained before. Franklin, who “eripuit oculo fulmen sceptrum que tyrannis,”* had but recently fulfilled his great mission; Galvanus had just commenced those investigations which, afterwards continued and augmented by Volta and others, led through the discovery of galvanic electricity to that of electro-magnetism, which has gifted us with the electric telegraph, when Hahnemann, from observations as just and experimentation as simple and rational as that of the philosophers just named, was brought to recognise the existence of a law of cure. This law you know so well that it is now unnecessary to define it, and the immense benefits accruing from its discovery and application are too obvious to require recapitulation.

But happy and useful as is this discovery, and its concomitant, that of the operation of extremely minute doses, they have met with the sternest opposition. For even in this time, when wonders are almost daily developed by the exercise of human intelligence, there are those who, in every stage of his progress, scout the discoverer, and prognosticate his discomfiture. There are those who seek to keep us where we are, or rather where we have been,

and whose every opinion and act tend to draw mankind back into the gloom and ignorance of the dark ages. They endeavour to cast obstacles in the way of advancement, and seek to deter every free, adventurous, and noble spirit from pressing onward. They raise a shout over every failure for the triumph of their superior sagacity; forgetful that often ere the ink which was employed in their demonstrations of impossibility had become dry, the impossible thing was in constant practical application; forgetful, too, that it is equally ridiculous to adhere to an old error as to adopt a new one.

They have treated Homœopathia as they have treated all other newly-discovered truths. They have demonstrated to their own satisfaction that it is absurd. This they have done not by observation but by inspiration, an inspiration which teaches them the facts in nature, and enables them to dispense with dull, plodding, and laborious observation and experiment.

We know that the ordeal of opposition is a probation to which all doctrines or announcements of discovery, whether true or false, are almost of necessity subjected. And as there are always such as “would rather err with Galen than be circulators with Harvey,” the violence of opposition affords no proof of their falsity or of their truthfulness. The homœopathist, building upon confirmed facts, knows the value of his position, and seeks no unnecessary supports for that which rests upon a secure and immovable basis. He may sometimes show that real discoverers have generally been persecuted, but he does not infer that because he who proclaimed a discovery was persecuted, that therefore he was a discoverer. This would be to argue as irrationally as his opponents, who, showing that nonsensical notions have been adopted at times in medicine, infer from this that Homœopathia must therefore be ridiculous. But the truth is the fact in nature, and the first positive demonstration of this fact is the discovery of this truth.

That Homœopathia has advanced, and is advancing in spite of the most virulent opposition, is certainly gratifying, and you should not be severely censured if you enjoy a little the discomfiture of vindictive and unscrupulous opponents. But there is a higher and more honourable gratification, in comparison with which that arising from mere victory is mean and contemptible. This is the satisfaction which the man of probity, exalted intelligence, and high religious sentiment, must experience from the conviction that he has been usefully labouring in the furtherance of the progress of man to greater attainment and happiness; from knowing that he has put his talents to use, and lo! they have become other five talents, in fulfilment of the law of Creative Wisdom, who has gifted him with reason, which he is to exercise upon the things around him; and that to idly receive the legends of the past, to obey them, and to hand them down to posterity, is a machinal operation compared to that of em-

* “Snatched the thunder from heaven, and the sceptre from tyrants.”

playing reason to seek facts by means of observation, to weigh evidence, and to arrive at true conclusions for purposes of utility.

Let it not be supposed for an instant that we despise the records of the past, or that, in our admiration of new discoveries, we lose respect for old truths. These are ever valuable, in whatever age of the world they first became known. To the discoveries made long since, the physician as well as the astronomer is indebted for the capability of making further advances in his science. "A thousand years roll by; the astronomer stands on the watch-tower of Babylon, and writes for posterity the records of an eclipse; this record escapes destruction, and is safely wafted down the stream of time. A thousand years roll away; the old astronomer, surrounded by the fierce but wandering Arab, again writes and marks the day which witnesses the sun's decay. A thousand years roll heavily away; once more the astronomer writes, from amidst the gay throng that crowds the capital of Europe. Record is compared with record, date with date, revolution with revolution, the past and the present together—another struggle commences—another triumph is won. Little did the Babylonian dream that he was observing for one who, after a lapse of three thousand years, should rest upon this very record the successful resolution of one of Nature's darkest mysteries."²

Recognising then the fact, that Medicine is a science capable of improvement, and requiring it, we may hope that this Institute will not become an instrument of conservatism, to preserve the present limitations of science, and to say to the aspirant after greater knowledge, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther;" but that, serving as a point of concentration for information from distant places and numerous sources, it may be able to reflect in every direction, in a condensed and well-arranged form, much that is valuable, which might otherwise be lost.

Remembering that physicians now possess advantages over their predecessors, in additional observations with improved means of observing, the Institute views the submission of the present to the past, an homage to the intelligence of the latter at the expense of an insult to our own. It, therefore, invites its members; and, if it be permitted to extend its voice beyond the limits of our own association, it feelingly invites our brethren in medicine, the physicians of every school, to give a calm consideration to the following propositions and advice.

The profession of healing the sick is both highly useful and responsible. Much good or much evil may result from its exercise, according to the proper or improper employment of the means within our reach for this purpose. These means, and their suitable methods of application, are only known from observation and experience. Let us then, laying aside all

prejudices, honestly and industriously inquire into the facts in nature, and let these, when substantiated, be the basis of our opinions and practice. Let us avoid every arbitrary doctrine, every antiquated and superstitious notion, and every modern conceit, which have no facts to support them; and then, although there will always be individual jealousies, the profession will rapidly advance in usefulness to the human race.

On behalf of the Committee,

JACOB JEANES.

May 19th, 1852.

As our Journal was about to be sent to the press, we received the July number of the "American Magazine, devoted to Homœopathy and Hydropathy," which proves that the opinion we expressed of that periodical at its commencement was not far from the truth. We then intimated that it was "eclectic" in its character, and the number before us sustains that opinion, so it seems to us. A fierce attack is made upon the Philadelphia Journal of Homœopathy, on account of its advocacy of pure, unmixed Homœopathy. Dr. W. A. Gardiner, the editor of the Philadelphia Journal, does not need our aid in his defence, for he is fully competent to defend himself and Homœopathy. The editor of the magazine has several times said that the American Institute of Homœopathy had adopted what he calls Hydropathy, which is a mistake. The facts are these:—several years ago the Institute appointed our late colleague, Dr. R. A. Snow, a committee to report on the water treatment of diseases. At the next meeting of the Institute, after his appointment, Dr. Snow reported in part, and the subject was recommitted to him, and before the next meeting of the Institute, Dr. Snow had gone to the world of spirits. Some two years afterwards, the committee on publication of the proceedings of the Institute, were requested to obtain Dr. S.'s report and in its order publish it, which they did. The Institute never heard it read, never debated the subject, and never voted on it. The Institute of Homœopathy has never committed the folly of attempting to decide scientific subjects by vote; and it is distinctly avowed in its proceedings for 1848 (we quote from memory), that it will not sanction or express an opinion of any doctrines contained in papers read before it, nor is the publication of such papers or reports in its proceedings to be regarded as an

* Lecture by C. Mitchell.

approval or otherwise of the contents of said papers or reports. This was the substance of the resolution offered by ourself, and adopted unanimously by the Institute; consequently Dr. Gatchell, of the Magazine, fails in his attempt to make the American Institute of Homœopathy sanction formally his views of the water treatment. We ought to remark, further, that the Institute at its meetings allows free discussion of any doctrine that may come before it, but invariably it has refused to undertake by a vote to decide any scientific question. The Institute has adopted but one principle, the law of cure, *similia similibus curantur*. We have no room for further remarks.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

The friends of Homœopathy in this city are becoming interested in the establishment of a Hospital for the Homœopathic treatment of diseases. To accomplish the organisation of such a Hospital will require a good deal of money, but it is in the hands of an efficient committee of gentlemen, whose benevolence, moral standing, and pecuniary independence, are well known to our citizens generally, and we do not doubt that the requisite funds will soon be secured, and the Institution organised without delay. It is not our business, nor is it necessary, to suggest a plan for the Hospital; the trustees, with such counsel as they may seek, will adopt the best plan for the benefit of the sick, as well as the promotion of the interests of Homœopathy.

This Hospital will doubtless become one of the best schools in our country for teaching the principles and practice of medicine and surgery. It is now admitted that the ordinary lectures in the colleges are insufficient, to say nothing of the doctrines taught in them, to constitute a thorough physician, but instruction at the bedside of the sick is essential for that purpose, and it cannot be conducted so well as in a Hospital.

ANECDOTE.

Dr. Hering, whilst travelling in Germany, saw an old gentleman who had suffered much under many doctors, who all treated him dif-

ferently. He at last, however, determined to take no more medicine until he should find three doctors who would all agree upon his case," and for this purpose he was travelling, and had, when Dr. Hering saw him, consulted 477 physicians, who wrote for him 832 recipes, containing 1097 different remedies. He requested Dr. Hering to prescribe, but he declined it, and asked him if Hahnemann were not among the number he consulted. With a smile he turned to No. 301, name of disease O, remedy prescribed O. "That was the wisest man of the lot," said he, "for he said that the name of the remedy did not concern me, but that the cure was the essential point." "But why," I enquired, "did you not allow him to treat you?" "Because," said he, "he is but two, and I must have three who agree." Dr. Hering said, if he were willing to sacrifice some hundred francs in the experiment, he would find not *three*, but *thirty-three* physicians who would agree in his case, to which he acceded. A description of his disease was then made out and sent to thirty-three homœopathic physicians. He shortly after wrote to Dr. Hering, saying, "I send you wine of the year 1822, because twenty-two physicians agree respecting my case. I thereby perceive that there is certainly such a thing in this world as twenty-two physicians who have fixed upon the same remedy." He took the remedy, and got cured.

The New York Homœopathic Dispensary, corner of Broadway and Broome street, is open daily, from 12 to 1, and from 4 to 5 o'clock. We understand the number of patients prescribed for, is about three hundred weekly.

Homœopathic physicians will find Dr. C. Von Bönninghausen's paper highly interesting, and we ask for it a careful reading.

The Philadelphia Journal of Homœopathy for July has just reached us. It is a capital number. This Journal ought to be sustained. It is what it purports to be, a Journal of Homœopathy.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

G. R. W.—We think we are not mistaken. We have in many cases witnessed violent "aggravations" of diseases from the high attenuations of drugs, even to the 1000th. If you repeat these or any other attenuations, at short intervals, say 24 or 48 hours, or, in some cases, in less than two weeks, you will in all likelihood not perceive the aggravation, and may fail of the curative effects of the drug. For example, *Sulphur*, of the 30th and upwards, will not, in most cases of chronic diseases, when indicated, cause an "aggravation" until about the tenth day after its administration. These aggravations are of great practical importance in acute as well as chronic diseases, for if they exist and are overlooked, and set down to the progress of the disease, uninfluenced by the drug, and then you administer other drugs, the case becomes confused thereby, and not unlikely a cure defeated. The more experience we have in homoeopathic practice, the more cautious we grow in the selection and repetition of drugs.

J. W. wishes to know what attenuation we use in our practice. We seldom administer any drug under the 30th. If a drug is strikingly indicated, covering all, or nearly so, of the symptoms of the disease, as often happens in the different forms of scarlet fever, as well as most other diseases, we use the 200th, and seldom, in fact we may say never repeat it. We wait patiently, relying upon the one dose, until another drug is distinctly demanded by a change in the symptoms of the patient. Let it be understood that we search for the appropriate drug until all doubts are gone from our mind, and then we feel safe in doing as above stated. This mode of practice is attended with a great deal of labor, but the favorable result is a gratifying compensation. Formerly we repeated the remedy frequently, but we think we have adopted a "more excellent way."

W. J. R.—You ask my advice, as you have just undertaken the practice of Homoeopathy. Never attempt to be what is termed "a ready, off-hand prescriber." Many have split upon this rock. Make it a rule, and on no account depart from it, to examine the *Materia Medica Pura* whenever you prescribe. Be cautious how you rely alone on *Repertories*, especially the clinical remarks found in them, which are, in most instances, worthless. Depend upon it, there is no short and easy method to the practice of Homoeopathy. Never allow yourself to be hurried by patients or their friends; take time to deliberate, and by a careful examination of the patient and of the *Materia Medica*, be sure you have selected the remedy, and as it is certain in its effects, you can calmly wait for it to do its work. You may ask, but suppose it does not relieve, what am I to do? We answer, 1st. The case may be incurable, and, unless careful, the true homoeopathic remedy may hasten on the disease. 2d. If it be a curable case, the first dose, if rightly chosen, and sufficiently attenuated, will show its beneficial effects, in regard to time, as a general rule, according to the acuteness of the disease, or its natural course. If it be, for example, an *acute pleurisy*, and *Aconite* indicated, you may look

for a mitigation of the symptoms from one dose, within six or eight hours, and if the patient continues to improve, you should not repeat the *Aconite*. But if a change in the symptoms takes place, indicating another drug, it is to be given at any time. Bear in mind this, that time *per se* for the repetition of drugs in the treatment of diseases never had any basis in the old school, and we are sure it has none in the new school. Pay no attention, therefore, to time, but to the actual condition of the patient, give a drug when it is demanded by the symptoms, and when once given, let it alone until there is a demand for another or the same, no matter how long or how short the time. It is true there are long acting and short acting drugs; this fact should not be overlooked, but sometimes a short acting remedy will influence some persons for a long time. We do not know of any fixed law on this subject, your own judgment must direct you.

Above all things be most careful not to fix upon a single prominent symptom, however distressing to the patient, and undertake to remove that as if it were everything in the case; by doing so you go at one leap into Allopathy. For example, some diseases have sleeplessness for one, two or three days; now, if you undertake to remove this symptom by itself, of necessity you will reason as an allopath, and will prescribe as one virtually, and will fail in your object, but if you succeed, it will be by large doses, and then your case is so disfigured that you cannot select the homoeopathic remedy. We have seen this in hundreds of instances. One symptom is not the disease, but it takes them all to make it up. Technically speaking, homoeopaths are not symptomatologists, these treat one symptom at a time; but the homoeopaths take all the symptoms at once, which constitutes what is revealed of the disease, in fact, all of the disease. Therefore it is homoeopaths are the only practitioners who treat the whole disease at the same time; while allopaths treat the symptoms one by one, at any rate they seek to do so, and we regret to say that too many who take rank in our school try to do the same thing, and call it homoeopathic practice. If you have doubt about this statement, look into almost any work on the allopathic practice of medicine, and examine the first prescription you happen to open to if it contain some half dozen drugs, and you will see that each one is directed to a particular symptom, and it is expected that one by one they will be killed off under the mandate of the physician. We repeat that homoeopaths are not symptomatologists, but allopaths are so. The former use the symptoms as a whole to designate the disease, and when they direct the remedy to the whole of the symptoms at once, they reach effectually the internal morbid state, which is concealed from view. The one treats the symptoms, and the other the disease.

This Journal can be had regularly of Rademacher & Shek, No. 239 Arch street, Philadelphia; also of Otis Clapp, Boston.